

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~the therapeutic treatment~~ therapeutically treating ~~[[of]]~~ a subject suffering from uncontrolled accumulation of lactic acid in the colon ~~imbalanced colon fermentation~~, said method comprising administering to said ~~[[a]]~~ subject a food product comprising an amount of polydextrose effective to reduce the suffering from lactic acid accumulation in the colon, and wherein the uncontrolled accumulation of lactic acid is indicative of imbalanced colon fermentation. ~~a lactic acid-reducing amount of polydextrose in a food product.~~

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the pH throughout the colon ~~without accumulation of lactic acid.~~

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in reducing putrefactive fermentation throughout the colon.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in increasing the amount of butyrate throughout the colon.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in increasing tolerance to probiotic lactic acid bacteria without ~~by preventing~~ accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced lactose intolerance without ~~by preventing~~ accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced food allergy without ~~by preventing~~ accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced celiac disease without ~~by preventing~~ accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the risk of lactic acid induced inflammatory diseases in the colon without ~~by preventing~~ accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in normalizing the microbial community throughout the colon without ~~by preventing~~ accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in combination with at least one polyol.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein said polydextrose and said polyol are administered in synergistic synergistically effective amounts ~~to prevent the accumulation of lactic acid throughout the colon.~~

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of lactitol, xylitol, maltitol, sorbitol and isomalt.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said polyol is lactitol.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of human beings, pet animals, farm animals, laboratory animals and zoo animals.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of a young mammal at the age of weaning, a young mammal suffering from milk crust, a mammal treated with antibiotics, a mammal having sensitivity to lactose, a mammal suffering from celiac disease, a mammal suffering from food allergy and an aged mammal.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said food composition is a sour milk product.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is hydrogenated polydextrose.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is purified.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is selected from the group consisting of non-hydrogenated polydextrose, hydrogenated polydextrose and non-hydrogenated or hydrogenated polydextrose which has been subject to purification and mixtures thereof.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of said polyol to said polydextrose ranges from about 1:10 to 10:1.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in ~~synergistic~~ synergistically effective amounts to ~~prevent~~ control the accumulation of lactic acid throughout the colon of a mammal, and the food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

33. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in ~~synergistic~~ synergistically effective amounts to reduce putrefactive fermentation in the colon of a mammal when food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the ratio of polyol to polydextrose is from 1:5 to about 5:1.